

THE IPN DISPATCH

IPN Monthly Dispatcher Update

July 2014



Line of Duty Deaths

Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) are an all-too-common and very tragic occurrence. Whether Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical Services, the hazards of the job can be lethal. As a service that has public safety at its very core, these incidents are very important to our team, dispatchers, and subscribers. However, as many of us are in, or have close ties to, public safety we understand the emotional and sensitive nature of these incidents and we want to protect those most deeply and closely affected. In that regard, IPN will continue to alert on

line-of-duty-death incidents but more as a sign of respect and acknowledgement of the loss of a fellow brother or sister rather than as a breaking news incident.

If you are monitoring an incident where a serious or fatal injury has occurred to an on-duty police officer, firefighter, or EMT/Paramedic, it is permissible to note that in the text of the initial alert or subsequent updates; in fact, such an escalation of an incident would warrant an update. Please do not include information that will identify a specific victim (name, rank & agency, etc.). For incidents that have a confirmed LODD, please send an email to IPN support with the details. A member of your Admin Team will research the incident and make a respectful LODD notification after family and other community notifications have been made. Again, IPN is not seeking to "alert" on the LODD details but pay our respects in the form of a notification to our subscribers and dispatchers.



Summer Raffle

Already have an IPN t-shirt? Don't need any more gift cards? Well, just what are you going to do with your hard-earned points? We have just the rewards item for you: a raffle ticket at just 150 points each enters you to win a mint condition (never opened) Baltimore FD Seagrave tiller-truck model (1/64 scale) in the classic white and orange colors. You can view the item [online](#) but good lucking ordering one, they are SOLD OUT! Click [here](#) to go to your rewards page and enter as many times as you want. The raffle will close on August 15th and the winner will be picked at that time.



Have a raffle idea? Let us know, we would like to make this a recurring reward item. (We often hear "I don't do it for the points" but we would like to make sure you are rewarded anyway.)

IPN Dispatcher of the Month

We are pleased to announce that **PEN242** has been named DOTM!

Congratulations are in order as well as he has been with IPN for 14 years!

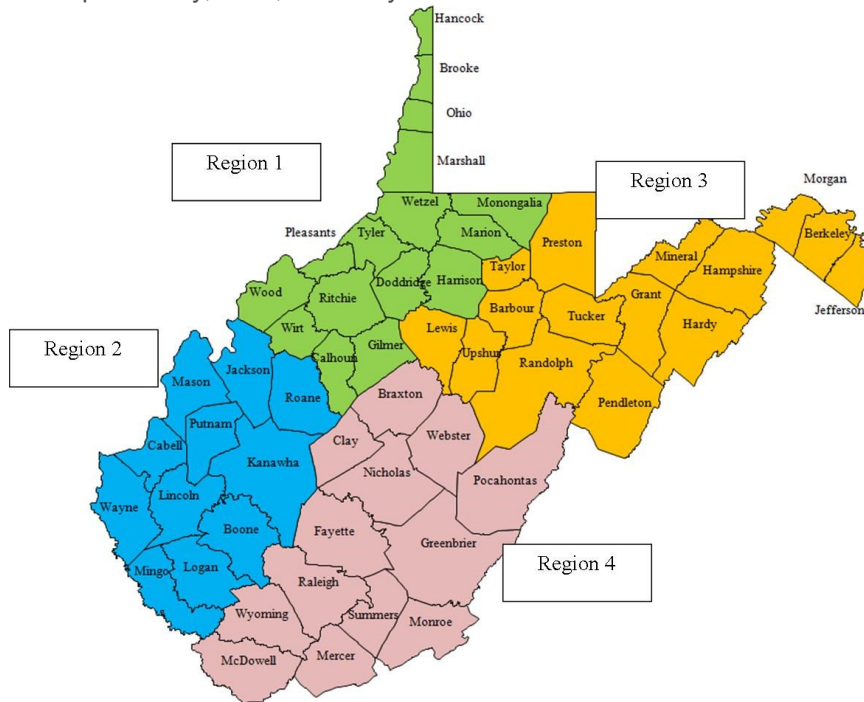
We are excited to award him an item from our IPN Gear Line. We truly appreciate the high quality service that each of you provide.

In This Issue

- LODD's
- Summer Raffle
- New WVA Wx Regions
- Feed Review: Oklahoma City FD
- Guideline Review: Traffic Advisory
- Celebs in the News

West Virginia Weather Regions

In an effort to simplify the Weather notifications, your Admin Team has redefined the seven regions of West Virginia to just four. The new weather regions are Northwest (Region 1), Southwest (Region 2), Northeast (Region 3) and Southeast (Region 4). Please refer to the graphic below for the corresponding counties. Hotline and east-coast dispatchers are encouraged to save this information. Weather warnings and watches should only be paged to the respective weather region and alerts entered for a specific city, town, or county will be deleted.



Feed Review -Oklahoma City Fire

We turn once again to Radio Reference's online scanner site Broadcastify.com to review the feed from the Oklahoma City Fire Department. With a population of over 610,000, Oklahoma City ranks as the 27th largest city in the USA! OKCFD operates out of 37 fire houses and crews respond to over 70,000 calls a year (which translates to almost 200 runs a day). The city boasts five different interstate highway systems throughout the region, creating the potential for major incidents at almost any time. Of note, this is a very diverse city, as with many larger cities, and this increases the possibilities of exciting and often dramatic scanner activity.

Although the department utilizes Mobile Data Terminals (aka MDT's or MDC's), radio traffic during major incidents continues and key information is routinely repeated.

This feed also hosts a slight amount of police radio traffic but it appears to be limited and incidents are mostly fire and EMS related. A separate feed is available providing law enforcement radio traffic.

Remember, if you do not have dispatcher access to the Oklahoma Chapter you may forward alerts to the hotline for a relay or contact support to add this chapter to your dispatcher profile.

[Click here](#) for the audio link and bookmark it today!

Pop Quiz

A new feature in the newsletter will be a scenario quiz. An IPN QA admin will write up a short scenario description and you pick which category you would use, if any, to send the alert. At the end of the newsletter, we'll provide the answer with the reason behind it....be careful, they might be tricky!



Quint 58 has arrived on scene of a person fallen down an embankment along the Pacific Coast Highway. The female is unconscious with head trauma. The Captain has established command. As IC he is requesting a 2nd Alarm for Manpower along with an Air Ambulance for transport. Radio Traffic indicates this will be a low slope rescue. Highway Patrol will be needed to control traffic once the assisting units get there.

As an IPN dispatcher monitoring this call, which category would you send the call to?

- A) Trauma Alert - The female is unconscious and they have called for an air ambulance.
- B) Tech Rescue - Firefighters are using a stokes basket and ropes to rescue the patient from a ravine.
- C) Traffic Advisory - Obviously that man trucks will create a traffic problem. Don't forget the LZ curiosity.
- D) 2 Alarm Fire - A second alarm was called for manpower.

Guidelines Review

-Traffic Advisory (TRAFFIC)

The Traffic Advisory alert can be a very valuable tool but lately there have been concerns over its proper use. We will soon issue a revised guideline update to be more inclusive.

Traditionally, the category has been used to advise subscribers of an incident that is in progress on a major roadway. (note: does not require lane closure to be payable). A basic requirement is that a public safety official is on scene confirming the incident and providing details. Yes, that is correct, the incident can be verified by any public safety official, as long as it is a sworn official the page can go out. A firefighter on scene in his POV reporting to dispatch a valid size-up is the same as a captain arriving on the engine. As a traffic advisory, the guidelines are less stringent regarding who is at scene. More important is that we give in-depth summary of the incident. Details make the page!

Here are some quick clarifications on recent emails to support:

Q: I got a page for cars that were off the road and nobody was trapped?

A: Well, it was a 2-lane highway and there was a curiosity issue. Firefighters were attempting to confine a 5 gallon oil spill. It was payable incident and the dispatcher did a fine job!

Q: This was a rollover in a parking lot. There weren't even any injuries. Payable?

A: Absolutely! The media loves these calls as do many of our members. Any calls that are newsworthy or make for decent photographs should be paged. Since it is a minor MVA we felt that traffic advisory is the best place. Vehicle vs structure incidents that don't involve major injuries or entrapment are also great for this category.

Q: President Obama is in town again. He is really screwing up traffic everywhere! Can I please send a page?

A: No way! It's a planned event that already identified by the local news. IPN does not alert on planned events like parades, motorcades, or roadwork. Additionally, as the motorcade is mobile, a specific location cannot be identified.

Q: FD says this brush fire is only 1/2 acre but it's in the freeway median, should I send as brush or traffic?

A: Because the brush fire does not meet the minimum 1 acre requirement for brush, traffic advisory would be correct.

Q: Why did I get a page for a rollover with no injuries at 3AM? There isn't any traffic on the road.

A: IPN is a 24 hours notification system. If there is a newsworthy incident, regardless of the time of day, our dispatchers are encouraged to send out the notification.



Incident Photos & Event Summary

The Indianapolis Fire Department was dispatched to a report of fire in a single story auto repair shop. Upon arrival the first due apparatus reported heavy fire and smoke showing. Shortly after arrival of the battalion chief a 2nd alarm was requested. The fire started after the business's owner ignited his clothing while working with a torch. The owner suffered serious injuries from the fire and an employee, who attempted to help the owner, received minor burns. Because of heavy fire load the fire took nearly 2 hours to be marked under control.



05-27-2014 19:23 | Indianapolis| 1 Alarm Fire| FD-OP01 10205| 3910 E 21st St | Eng 20 on scene 1 story masonry auto parts store with heavy fire showing| IND001

Newsletter Submissions

We received some support inquiries about newsletter submissions and want to say again that we **WANT** your input, **NEED** your article submissions, and **LOVE** your scene photos.

Do you host a scanner feed and want it featured? Write it up! Got an idea for an article? Let us know.... maybe we'll ask you to write it!

Chat Room Conduct

A main feature we have been asked to keep is the IPN Chat Room and, with the new design of the dispatch page, this is a featured item. Used responsibly, this excellent resource facilitates communication with other dispatchers and provides the ability to coordinate efforts in real-time with your colleagues.

While we appreciate the positive feedback we have received regarding this feature, we regret that there have been some complaints too. We ask that you remain professional in the chat room and remember that not only can everyone see the chat conversation (including Admins) but that it is being archived as well. We encourage conversation, constructive advice, and certainly reaching out to the "newbies."

However, to put it simply, IPN will not tolerate inappropriate behavior anywhere on our site and this includes our hosted chat room. We are all working towards a common goal and it is inappropriate to act in any manner other than adult-like. A difference of opinion is fine, name-calling, profanity, or childish remarks are not. Rather than assume the role of an Admin, refer the issue to support. Violations will result in the removal of this feature from your profile, which really doesn't help anyone.

Please enjoy the chat room, bond, have fun, tell jokes, coordinate. Like Mama says, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all."

Celebs in the News

As many of you may have already heard, comedian and actor Tracy Morgan was seriously injured in a major auto accident. Kudos to IPN dispatcher NJY072 for monitoring and alerting on this early morning incident:

NJY| Cranbury Township, NJ (Middlesex County)| Major Accident| New Jersey Turnpike N/B mm 71.5| NJSP o/s w TT vs Car w 4 pts, 1 pos DOA, w heavy entrapment, FD e/r, medevac e/r| NJY072|



[QA note: abbreviation e/r is not approved, use enrt for "enroute."]

As a reminder, incidents involving a celebrity are treated as any other incident and must meet IPN dispatch guidelines; celebrity involvement does not automatically warrant an alert. IPN does not alert on celebrity gossip and this is not considered breaking news (Lindsay Lohan quitting rehab; John Stamos seen with a beautiful woman; etc.). Celebrity death notifications should also be held unless it qualifies as a normally pageable incident.

Another issue is whether to include the celebrity name in the text of the alert. This is permissible if it is confirmed. For example, on a working fire alert, in addition to the size up, include "homeowner is actor Tony Danza." Do not omit key information for trivial information. Celebrity-related traffic jams are typically not pageable and, albeit havoc-wreaking, often planned (think POTUS in town, "impromptu" concert in the park, or other celebrity sightings).

Public Safety Humor

Paramedics arrive at the scene of an accident and find a brand new BMW rolled on its side and a man trapped underneath screaming "My car! My beautiful car!" "Do you think they can repair it?" The paramedic looks down and sees the man is missing part of his arm and says "Mate, don't worry about your car right now just look at your arm, you're missing part of your arm!" The man looks more pale and more concerned than before and screams "My Rolex, my Rolex... I've lost my Rolex!"

New Dispatcher Rewards Item

Fire Apparatus Collectors Cards from Choice Fire are now available in the Rewards Screen. These cards are professionally manufactured by the same people who make sports collectors cards. We currently offer just a handful of their many sets but new sets will be added in the future based on the interest and demand of our dispatchers.

Cards are 300 points per set.

See them now at:

[Dispatcher Rewards](#)



Don't freq out !

When IPN first started online scanners were few and unreliable. Instead, we all had our scanners at home and know the right "digits" or frequency was vital to monitoring an incident.. While many of us still use scanners, the abundance and ease of use of online scanners has really shifted our subscribers preference. It is amazing how far we have come in the past decade.



It is important to note that while we continue to provide a "frequency" field when dispatching an incident, it is not mandatory information. Because some dispatchers were incorrectly taught that something (anything!) had to be there, they include incomplete, misleading, or vague information, such as CFD, County Fire, State Police or similar benign entries. These are not very useful to those limited users that still want frequencies. In fact, if you don't know the specific operations or command channel we would rather you just leave the box empty.

If you do chose to include the frequency we ask that you provide a specific frequency name such as FG4, Red 1, Tac 13 or something similar. You can also enter the actual numeric, if known (i.e. 154.550, 483.1625, 33.70). "800 Trunk" is not a valid entry and it wastes space.

Occasionally, we see a call updated solely because the IC changes the talk group during an incident or an error was made. This doesn't warrant an update unless accompanied by call escalation or other valid update reason.

Contact support for clarification if necessary. The most important thing to take from this is not to freq out! Our purpose is to notify members of a working incident and the frequency is a minor component (most scanner buffs will know where to tune and the online listeners don't have many options).

Contact Us

Remember, we are here for YOU.

Newsletter Story & Photo Submission:

newsletter@incidentpage.net

General Support:

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Dispatcher Admin Office:

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El Cajon, CA 92020

Quick Links:

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Pop Quiz Answer

The best answer and category choice is:

B) Tech Rescue - Firefighters are using a stokes basket and ropes to rescue the patient from a ravine.

The technical rescue always trumps a Trauma Alert or Traffic Advisory. 2 Alarm Fire is not relevant here because there was no fire. The second alarm was to assist on a technical rescue. Sending it as a fire would be confusing.